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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/340,463	06/28/1999	TAKATOSHI OHTA	35.G2420	3937

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EXAMINER

TRAN, DOUGLAS Q

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/340,463

Applicant(s)

OHTA, TAKATOSHI

Examiner

Douglas Q. Tran

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 June 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

For claims 1 and 5, the specification and figures do not support the limitation is described in first paragraph of these claims: “ processing means for quantizing error-correction data...” and “ processing means ... so that data having at least two levels are generated”; and in the last paragraph “ ... said processing means outputs,..., a different level from a level resulting from fundamental processing for said predetermined level so as to prevent a pseudocontour from being generated.

However, the Examiner cites the prior art to reject the claims based on the limitations of the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohta et al. (US Patent No. 5,621,542).

As to claim 1, Ohta teaches:

Input means for inputting image data (col. 2, line 67);

Processing means for quantizing error correction data obtained by adding error data to the image data input by the input means (col. 3, lines 1-4, the error data is distributed to image data) so that data having at least two levels are generated (col. 3, lines 5-7, the data of two levels 0 and 1 is generated by the distributed means); and

Allocating means (i.e., an error distribution table) for allocating the error data generated when the quantization is performed to image data which are not quantized (col. 5, lines 7-10 and 13-14 and col. 3, lines 59-61; the error data from the error distribution table is distributed to peripheral pixels around a target pixel, so target pixel is quantized and peripheral pixels are not quantized);

Wherein in response to a predetermined level of the error correction data, the processing means outputs, as a result of quantization, a different level from a level resulting from fundamental processing for the predetermined level so as to prevent a pseudocontour from being generated (col. 5, lines 36-46, a predetermined level of the error correction data that is the value of the denominator of the error distribution coefficient is equal to 256 which is processed by multiplying to the input image data of 8 bits. Therefore, the result from the processing would be

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a level different from the level resulting from fundamental processing for the predetermined level. Col. 6, lines 16-18, from the above processing, the pseudocontour form is prevent because the picture quality in the highlighted portion of the image can be improved).

As to claim 2, Ohta teaches that the allocation means allocates (i.e., an error distribution table), as the error data, the difference between the error correction data and the quantized data having a different level from a level resulting from fundamental processing (col. 5, lines 51-59).

As to claim 3, Ohta teaches that an output means for outputting, based on the data having at least two levels from the processing means, an image in which the sizes of dots are controlled (col. 6, lines 10-15 and col. 4, lines 54-56).

As to claim 4, Ohta teaches that the output means uses ink jet printing to record an image (col. 4, line 54-55).

As to claims 5-8, Ohta teaches the methods are performed by apparatus claims 1-4 as indicated above.

As to claim 9, due to the similarity of this claim to that of claim 1, this claim is rejected as the reason applied to claim1.

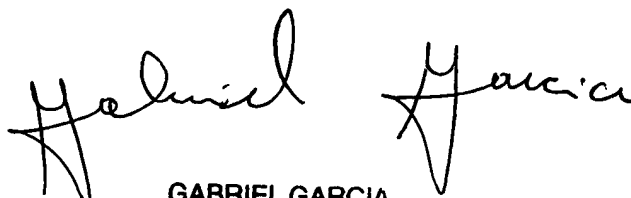
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Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4857 or E-mail address is Douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Douglas Q. Tran
Nov. 28, 2002


GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER